

The Oregon Legionnaire

The Voice of Oregon's Veterans Since 1919

April 2020

THE
AMERICAN
LEGION **FAMILY**



Notes from Commanders,
Commission Reports,
Auxiliary,
Trivia and so much more...

Inside This Issue
Oratorical pg 8

Oregon's Oratorical Program garners these Winning
Student's significant College Scholarship money totaling
\$13,000.00



Oratorical

(left-right) Oratorical Chair, Vandee Mauser, Mark Aldrich, Anwesha Mukherjee, Tanner Stenkamp, Marvin Elzey, Kayln Lafayette, and Department Commander, Steve Adams

WHY DID YOU JOIN?



ROB LIEBENOW
WESTERN DIVISION
NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

I joined because a friend asked me too. I did not know much about The American Legion, except it was a veteran's organization. As I started to attend meetings, I learned how the organization helped veterans and their families. We have members that walk the halls of congress and present our agenda to our senators and representatives.

We wrote the G.I. Bill, it was because of The American Legion that we have a V.A. System. We support and sponsor Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts; we sponsor American Legion Baseball, Boys State, a High School Oratorical contest, Law Enforcement Career Camp, and a grade school flag program.

I do not understand why so many of our members join for one year and never renew their membership. There must be a reason why you joined in the first place. 90% of you never attend a meeting or a post function. We do not ask you to attend meetings, only that you give us what time you can.

Your membership is **IMPORTANT** to us. Without you, we cannot run our programs or help our veterans. Without you, The American Legion would not exist. Then who would see to it that our veterans received the help they need? If you think that congress would see that our veterans are taken care of without The American Legion and other veterans' organizations like us, you are completely wrong. So, **WHY DID YOU JOIN THE AMERICAN LEGION.**

Please renew today so we can continue our mission.



National Vice Commanders



LARRY WITTMAYER
DEPT 2ND-VICE COMMANDER
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

First of all, I hope we are all celebrating the birthday of The American Legion on March 15th.

I attended the department oratorical contest in Albany this past weekend. Congratulations to all the contestants.

I am planning to visit as many of the district caucuses to spread the word about our membership campaign and talk about how our district commanders can be more productive.

Regarding membership, we have a few ongoing revitalizations going along with buddy checks, and I recently sent out 65 new DMS/114 lists to the posts to renew their efforts in that regard. I would also like to emphasize the need to finish up with our renewals.

We are approaching the 90% target on 3/11 and the 95% target on April 8th. Many events are taking place during the next month or so. Please keep the end goal in mind.

I have asked the district commanders to send me the zip code lists that they think apply to their districts to do a reevaluation of that project.

As of the latest weekly report (I will get a new one tomorrow), congratulations to the following posts for being 100% + of goal: Posts 37, 50, 55, 89, 100, and 180. District 8 leads the pack.

We are heading towards a slump in processing, and I know we can do better. Keep up the efforts.

We are now in 37th place nationwide.

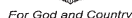




to file taxes which are due for a 990, 990EZ or 990N by are no exceptions.

Reminder: you will be holding your Post and District Elections. Remember to vote for your Post and Districts Delegates. Post Delegates Forms must be completed and sent to Department with \$15. For each Post Delegate authorized. Even if you do not have enough Post Delegates you are required to send in the \$15. For each Delegate authorized for your Post. The Department Adjutant will be sending out the required Post Delegates for each Post by Post population. All Delegates attending the Department Convention must have their Post Delegate Forms with their Adjutant certification sent to Department 45 days before the Department Convention. District

Delegates Forms need to be sent to Department after election at your District Meetings. These are the Delegates attending the National Convention.







March 13, 2020

Dear Adjutant Phillips,

The books have been closed for 2019 and net proceed calculations have been completed for each Department.

Sincerely,


Daniel S. Wheeler
National Adjutant

THIS CHECK HAS A COLORED BACKGROUND AND CONTAINS MULTIPLE SECURITY FEATURES - SEE BACK FOR DETAILS	
	<p>THE AMERICAN LEGION THE AMERICAN LEGION P O BOX 1055 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46205</p>
<p>FIFTH THIRD BANK 251 N ILLINOIS ST SUITE 1200 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204</p>	
PAY **Nine thousand two hundred three and 00/100 Dollars**	\$** 9,203.00
<p>TO THE ORDER OF</p>	<p>OREGON AMERICAN LEGION The American Legion P O Box 1730 WILSONVILLE, OR 97070-1730</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>VOID AFTER 90 DAYS</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">  <p>AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE</p> </div> </div>	
	



This year we have a new vendor, and we will have different kinds of Campaigns. As you can see from reading the article, the Department will now receive 100% of the funds raised by the National Organization. This resolution means we will have more funds to fund the Programs the Legion promotes. So know that your donations do a lot of good, and we can now recoup all of your contributions.

Thank you for your continued giving, and please think of an endowment to the Oregon American Legion Foundation.

Flynn





CORY BROCKMANN
DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

winning the 2020 contest, Mukherjee becomes a two-time champion of the Department of Oregon's oratorical contest.

The 2020 department-level contest saw significant changes this year. Among those changes was an increase of scholarship awards, now totaling \$13,000 for the top four contestants, and the dissolution of area-level competitions. With those changes in place the department-level contest fielded five strong contestants, one each from five of the 10 districts, competing for the Department's top scholarship award of \$5,000.

Mukherjee will now represent Department of Oregon at the 2020 National High School Oratorical Contest April 17-19 in Indianapolis, Ind., where the top winner will be awarded a \$20,000 scholarship.

Quarter-final and semi-final pairings for the 2020 national final were previously established and this year's contest places Oregon in the ninth bracket along with Georgia, Kentucky, Nevada and North Dakota. Monitor legion.org/oratorical for details on videos posted for this year's national final.

MEMBERSHIP – Post- and district-level organized revitalization efforts continue to show positive results! Concerted efforts at Argonne #56 and J.H. Wellington #42, respectively, took each post over the 90% level, with Argonne #56 topping the district above the 95% level.

A significant number of year-2019

We extend our congratulations to 2020 Department Oratorical Champion Anwesha Mukherjee, representing John Kalmbach Post #90, Banks, Ore. In

winning the 2020 contest, Mukherjee becomes a two-time champion of the Department of Oregon's oratorical contest.

members remain unrenewed – enough to create goal posts and/or a goal district – and continued efforts are needed by posts to contact those veterans. Most importantly, however, in getting past members renewed, is to further ensure our veterans have, and maintain, a post home. A post home where they know they are welcome and one able to provide a vital source of support.

Listings of year-2019 unrenewed members were distributed by the district to posts for follow-up, along with listings from year-2018. We've had outstanding results in working the 114/DMS listings and now must focus efforts on our unrenewed members.

COVID-19 – Concerns persist surrounding the rapid spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019, also referred to as COVID-19. The originating case of presumptive COVID-19 in Oregon was diagnosed within the district, in Washington County. The addition of two more presumptive diagnoses within just a few days prompted at least one post – Argonne #56 – as well as the district to send special precautionary notices to their members, encouraging education, awareness and preparation. Many of the uncertainties of COVID-19 give rise to fear of the unknown. These notices provided access to trusted sources of information – Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) – in obtaining the latest updates and recommendations. Please review the email again if you are needing those web-links.

District Officer Nominations – Please give strong consideration of how you can serve your district! Candidate nominations are needed for district commander and vice commander, as well as, there are several district committees with chairs that need filled for next year.

The current district commander cannot be re-elected due to the district's constitution and bylaws, so can-

didates are needed for elections in order to fill the vacancy for 2020-2021. We have many members in our district that have provided strong leadership for years to their post and that leadership is also needed at the district level, as well.

WASHINGTON DC CONFERENCE – I had the privilege and honor of representing District 1 and the Department of Oregon as a member of the Oregon delegation that attended the Washington DC conference 8-11 March. The delegation consisted of nine members, each holding a national call-in for commissions and/or committees each serves on. A personal highlight was attending, in person, National Commander Bill Oxford's testimony before a joint hearing of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives Committees on Veterans' Affairs.

POST VISITS – Since the beginning of the year your District 1 leadership has conducted post visits to: Argonne #56, Tigard #158, Washington #2, J.H. Wellington #42, Beaverton #124, Aloha #104 and Clatsop #12. Posts continue to perform exceptionally in their efforts of caring for their veteran communities. Thank you for your continued good works!

DISTRICT 1 MEETING – The final, scheduled district meeting is slated for Aloha #104, Aloha, Ore. on Saturday, 2-May-2020. This meeting will include both our regular meeting and caucus.

In closing, there is no doubt in my mind that Veterans strengthen America – thank you for doing your part! #StillServing

Deadline

for the May issue
of the
Oregon Legionnaire
is April 5th, 2020



RENEE OHLER
DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER

Our District 2 Caucus will be held at Carlton Memorial Post 173 on April 26th. Potluck at 12:00 with meeting to follow at 1:00. As we prepare to elect new leadership for the District during our caucus you are encouraged to contact our nominating chair, Angel Mendoza with candidates to fill these positions. Leadership within the District is our foundation to move onward and upward in the new Legion year.

I have asked 2nd Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer to address the membership on the responsibilities and expectations of the District 2 Officer Board. I have also asked Vice Commander Wittmayer to talk on membership. As always with membership I encourage all posts to use mylegion.org to find members in your area to build a new membership base. Vice Commander Wittmayer is also our BSA contact for answers regarding scouts in our area.

We will also have 1ST Vice Commander Don Weber in attendance sharing his vision for the Legions future as he campaigns for the high office of Department of Oregon American Legion Commander. Vice Commander Weber is passionate about strong American Legion Posts and strong American Legion Programs.

We all need to believe in God and Country, the programs that the American Legion has to offer the community, the welfare of our veterans, and the willingness to do something about it. We joined the American Legion to make a difference, to put the hard work in it takes to be a successful post, and to carry on the legacy of those who had a vision of what this country can become if we just remind our communities of the sacrifices made by veterans for their freedoms.

Stayton Post 58 sets a great example for other posts to emulate. They are busy with Legion programs all the time. American Legion Baseball, Oratorical, Boys State, Girls State, Law Enforcement Career

Camp, Flag lines, Military Honors, Parades, Fairs, Schools, Scouting, Oregon State Prison Veterans, and fundraisers to support it all.

Congratulations to Mt Angel Post 89 for 103.57% membership. Great job! I know they have worked very hard to make this goal. Well done. Independence Post 33 is at 96.97%, McMinnville Post 21 is at 95.89%, and Canby Post 122 is ½% away from the March 11th goal of 90%. Keep moving forward and reaching for that ultimate goal of 100%.

On February 2nd Carlton Memorial Post 173 transferred Richard Riley to the Post Everlasting during a Celebration of Life held at our Post by his family. Richards wife Phyllis passed in 2018 and was an active Auxiliary member that gave so much to veterans. Richard was a 60 year member of Post 173, a Past District 2 Commander, and a Community Leader.

Our next Department Executive Meeting is April 3-5 in La Pine at Post 45. I look forward to sharing information from this meeting.

For God and Country

God Bless

Calendar of Events

April

10 Good Friday
11 District 6 Mtg
12 Easter Sunday
12 District 2 Caucus Mtg
18 District 9 Mtg
18 District 4 Caucus Mtg
21 District 8 Mtg

May

02 District 1 Caucus
02 District 5 Caucus
09 District 3 Caucus
16 District 6 & 10 Caucus
19 District 8 Caucus
23 District 7 Caucus
25 Memorial Day (Closed)
National Closed

June

06 District 9 Caucus
14-20 Boys State
14-20 Girsl State
24-28 State Convention



PDC, JON MARSH
PFC COMMITTEE

What is the Permanent Finance Commission (PFC)? There are three important functions: First, it is our fiduciary duty to prepare an annual budget for the Department of Oregon, and that budget is presented to the Department Executive Committee for approval at the Spring DEC meeting. To meet this duty, the Permanent Finance Commission met on Saturday, February 29, to complete the 2020-2021 initial budget.

After the presentation at the DEC in La Pine, we will make approved changes, and the proposed budget will be published in the Pre-Convention issue of The Oregon Legionnaire and voted on at the Convention at Seven Feathers.

In addition, we work in an advisory role to the Department Executive Committee (DEC) on all matters of Department finance. Article VIII, Section 4 of the Department By-Laws provides the committee the authority to approve or veto any expenditures in excess of the amount budgeted and adopted by the annual Department Convention.

Last and not least, the Commission, in conjunction with the Administration and Advisory Commission, has the responsibility for reviewing and making recommendations to the DEC on all programs to enhance the Department's revenue.



Many Posts joined forces with their respective cities for a joint use building, which was:

- A. City Hall
- B. National Guard Armory's
- C. Community Centers
- D. High School Gyms



DAN EVERS

JUNIOR SHOOTING CHAIR

The first postal round is completed and Hailey Clevenger from Lebanon HS JROTC won the State title in Individual Sporter. Sorry to say she will not be able to compete in the second postal round that started 15th of February and continues until April 1st since she went to Nationals last year she has to sit out this year. The second round consists of the top 60 shooters in the nation and we have 6 of them. Congratulations to: Carmelia Martinez, Jonathan Smith, Kyler Boyce, Don Cort, Katerina Slingluff and Derek Best; all from Lebanon, except Don Cort who is from Redmond. The top 15 scorers in the second round will advance to Colorado Springs for the final round for the national championship.

Team Sporter title was won by Lebanon HS JROTC1 with Lebanon HS JROTC2 taking 2nd and Redmond HS MCJROTC1 takes 3rd. Lebanon JROTC1 shot 4th in the nation and gets to shoot the second round postal match for the National Championship.

It is important to get your paper work in on time. We had one team was disqualified for not getting targets in on time. They were 1 day late. Even with that we had 19 shooters in sporter and had 7 in the top 60 in the country. That is pretty impressive.

We had no Precision shooters this year.

Happy Easter!



Editors Notes

Reprinting with Permission Only!

Articles submitted to The Oregon Legionnaire that are copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original author or publication before they can be included here. No exceptions. Violation of copy right law is a serious matter that we cannot afford to engage ourselves in. Verbal permission is not acceptable.



Since 1919

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The Oregon Legionnaire*

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The Oregon Legionnaire assumes no responsibility for material submitted and reserves the right to edit submissions

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JACK LABOX

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

Oregon in Washington DC on March 10th. They will discuss the American Legion legislative agenda before the 116th congress. Some of the critical points are veterans suicide prevention,

What can congress do? Urge DoD and the VA to implement an automatic flagging system to alert providers of potentially fatal drug combinations, improvements to district veterans programs, toxic exposure and burn pits, and fully fund a robust National Defense. There is a lot to discuss.

If any district legislative director would like copies, please send me your email, vietvet74@outlook.com

*For God and
Country*



Department Officers

Commander	Steve Adams
Imed. Past Cmdr	Tom Harris
1st Vice Cmdr	Don Weber
2nd Vice Cmdr	Larry Wittmayer
Adjutant	S. Flynn Phillips
NECman	Andy Millar
Alt NECman	Jim Willis
Finance Officer	Bob Huff
Chaplain	Floyd Bacon
Historian	Judith Johnston
Judge Advocate	Gerald Shorey
Service Officer	Ed Van Dyke
Veterans Service Officer	Jody Marsh
Sgt-At-Arms	Phyllis York
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Mike Morris
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Ward Allen
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Steven Mays
Aide to Cmdr	Larry Williams
Aide to Cmdr	William "Bud" Stutheit

THE 2020 OREGON AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION (TOALF) RAFFLE



would appreciate your help!

Being raffled is a smaller framed print of 'Legacy and Vision,' which includes a 2019 commemorative American Legion silver dollar. Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for five tickets, and the drawing will take place at the 2020 Department Convention.

Look for the related raffle flyer in this edition of the Oregon Legionnaire. And, please, contact your post commander or district commander to purchase your tickets today!

It's not too late to purchase your 2020 TOALF raffle tickets! This exciting fund-raising raffle is underway to grow further opportunities of support for our Oregon American Legion youth and veteran programs, and we

The Oregon American Legion Foundation



The creation of The Oregon American Legion Foundation (TOALF) is to provide funds for The American Legion Department of Oregon programs. Its unique structure allows organizations wishing to contribute to our programs through a 501(C3) tax code structure. To give you an idea of how successful this entity is, the TOALF has donated over \$500,000 to The American Legion programs. These programs include Boys State, Girls State, Baseball, National Emergency, Scouts, and the American Legacy Scholarship Funds.

RICHARD RAMEY
TOALF COMMITTEE


You can help by contributing to The Oregon American Legion Foundation so that we can reach all of The American Legion programs (including some we have not yet committed to in the past). There are many ways you can help, even though your purchases of products through Amazon by using the SMILE feature. We can ask our employers to contribute through matching contributions.

But the best way is for each of us to contribute directly. At several Department Executive Committee meetings and Conventions, attendees donated to the Foundation, and you can help.


We can receive matching funds from other charitable organizations when we get contributions from our members.

So, whatever method you choose, whether it's saving the money from your loose change each day, or choosing to place a nickel a week aside, coordinating with your employer, having a designated event at your local post with the proceeds to donate to the Foundation, etc. All are worthwhile efforts if we can bolster the funds that we can contribute to supporting the great American Legion programs throughout our state.





2020 RAFFLE




Proudly Celebrating and Supporting Oregon's Veterans, Military, Families and Communities!

Limited Edition

A framed and matted print of The American Legion's 'Legacy & Vision' Centennial print with the Centennial Commemorative silver dollar coin!

Certificate of Authenticity is included!

All proceeds support veterans and youth programs.



(Not to scale— approx. 10"x 13")

Tickets: \$5 each or 5 for \$20

Contacts: District Commanders and Department Adjutant

The Oregon American Legion Foundation

American Legion Department of Oregon names winner in the Oratorical speech contest



VANDEE MAUSER
ORATORICAL CHAIR

Linn County Fairgrounds and Expo Center Albany. February 29th — Portland-- Anwesha

Mukherjee is the winner of the Oratorical Contest.

Anwesha Mukherjee won the First-Place contest held at the Linn County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Albany. Anwesha Mukherjee, a senior at Westview High School in Portland, earned The Department's top scholarship award of \$5,000 and will now represent the Department of Oregon at the 2020 National High School Oratorical Contest April 17-19 in Indianapolis, Ind., where the top winner will be awarded a \$20,000 scholarship.

- Each contestant delivered a prepared oration as well as an oration on a randomly assigned constitutional topic. Anwesha Mukherjee impressed the judges with a

speech titled *"Education a cure for apathy"*.

- Second Place winner, Mark Aldrich a Senior, Home schooled in Mulino, won a \$3500.00 Scholarship.
- Third Place winner, Kaylin Lafayette, a Junior at Brownsville, OR won a \$2500.00 Scholarship.
- Fourth Place winner, Tanner Stenkamp, Freshman at Redmond High School, Redmond OR, won a \$2000.00 Scholarship.
- For Competing and doing an outstanding job was Marvin Elzey of Reedsport, OR Siuslaw High School, Florence, OR.



Since 1938, The American Legion-High School Oratorical Scholarship Program has encouraged the nation's high school students to study the U.S. Constitution and to hone their public speaking skills.

For more information, please visit www.legion.org/oratorical

Oratorical Chairman:

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vandeemauser@gmail.com

Department Adjutant:

S. Flynn Phillips; 503-685-5006

adjutant@orlegion.org

Department Commander

Steve Adams; 541-777-1884

sadams43@outlook.com



LARRY WITTMAYER
SCOUTING CHAIR

This committee continues to encourage posts to charter (sponsor) scout-going units. Contact Larry Wittmeyer at 503-970-4944 larrywittbsa@comcast.net. Scouting on, council, district, and unit level are very much alive, safe, and very active.

The recent announcement about the national office BSA (a separate corporate entity) has filed chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. These bankruptcy proceedings do not affect the local scouting functions. They are an effort for the national office to reorganize their assets and establish a trust fund to settle lawsuits that are pending.

The national office fully intends to maintain its commitment to all involved. The following links may provide further information:

www.officialbsaclaims.com

www.bsarestructuring.org

As of this writing, we have passed the March 1st deadline for submission of applications for eagle scout of the year. No candidates identified.



JOHN LEE

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT
CHAIR

The Department of Oregon is currently accepting applications for the National Legion College. The deadline for all applications is June 15th at the Department of Oregon headquarters. We will conduct Interviews at the Department Convention in Seven Feathers Casino. We will announce the selection at the Post Convention DEC.

The American Legion National College enhances knowledge and appreciation of The American Legion and teaches the core values and contributions of the organization, its Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and many subordinate programs. The National Legion College prepares Legionnaires for leadership positions in posts, districts, counties, and departments through education, development, and motivation. The curriculum challenges student leaders to think critically and creatively about issues confronting the Legion.

The curriculum centers on self-taught, small-group sessions supervised by graduate facilitators, staff members, contracted professional speakers, and national officers. Students review The American Legion's core values, develop new ideas, and consider the future. The program places emphasis is on management techniques and leadership skills necessary to increase the visibility of Legion programs, growth in membership, and public awareness of the Legion and its corresponding organizations.

National leaders launch the week with sessions and lectures focusing on mentoring, recognizing and building leadership traits, and putting good leadership practices to use. These skills and techniques are practiced and reinforced throughout the week in a small-group environment and student-led meetings and presentations. Small-group workshops pro-

vide students basic leadership training in a volunteer environment. Core subjects include mentoring, leadership styles and opportunities, time management, conflict resolution, and legal issues.

Throughout the week, students learn the basics of developing communication strategies to promote American Legion programs, combined with the workshops and hands-on exercises. Topics include public outreach, media relations, "Reconnect" with today's active-duty and reserve personnel, schools, and community relations.

Salesmanship and Marketing Developed skills make students more valuable to their posts and departments. Students' employers also directly benefit from students' increased effectiveness and productivity. Teachings include community networking strategies, public-relations techniques, marketing and salesmanship programs, and image-building techniques.

The Department of Oregon is looking for candidates that will bring back their learning from the National Legion College and share with Legion leaders at all levels. They will be helping to train other officers and committee chairs at the Post, District, and Department. They will be able to enhance our American Legion programs from all four pillars and help the Department of Oregon grow. The candidate chosen will be someone who will remain active when they return and not someone who will just fade away.

The application is available for downloaded from:

https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/2020_Legion_College_Application.pdf

and

<https://www.legion.org/College>

For additional information, contact the Department of Oregon HQ or Training and Development Chair John Lee at johnwlee@centurytel.net

My Fellow
Legionnaires:

We are in
extraordi-
nary times to
say the least.

We have ob-
served sev-
eral of our
members



have been in STEVE ADAMS

self-imposed DEPARTMENT COMMANDER quarantine because of their contact with residents at the Lebanon Veterans home. The Lebanon Veterans Home has 13 residents and 1 staff that have tested positive for the COVID 19 virus with 1 death and our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

As we deal with this situation the Dept. HQ is on shutdown with only very limited people there to process membership and pay the bills and answering the phones. Flynn, Mary, and Lynn are doing a very good job in covering HQ with very limited contact. Posts are closed and only essential business is being done such as membership and assisting Veterans and their families with their needs. A lot of work is being done from home, on the phone or email.

We all need to follow the directions from the Federal, State agencies {Social Distancing, Hand Washing etc.}

Boys State, LECC, and Baseball is being tracked on a day to day basis and the Chairman of these committees will be evaluating these programs in the days ahead. We also need to be aware of the false or misleading information that is out there and only respond to information that is correct. As you know most District meetings and the Spring DEC have been cancelled. There will be a Teleconference DEC in the next two weeks and you will be advised of the time and date and is mandatory for all those involved.

Continued on page 11



PDC, BOB HUFF
VEEH CHAIRPERSON

lessness. We have partnered with DVOPS in several areas which can assist Veterans with employment; they are located at Oregon Work source offices. We can help you contact a source. We continue to have multiple Veterans Stand Downs in Oregon; the communities and Posts have become active; most are also Veterans Employment and Benefits events. We have had employers seeking Veterans to contact us for our next supported events. We will have completed the Stand down, Veterans Employment and Benefits event at Josephine County Fair-Grounds on Friday March 20, 2020 when this Legionnaire is published. Our Posts, our Legion Family have been supporting as community events.

This is important; with our Oregon National Guard deployed, our biggest deployment, our Posts need to participate with their local National Guard units and their families during this deployment. There are several Vet-Nets established in our communities to assist our deployed Guard families, some of our Posts are participating, all our Posts need to participate. We have programs that can support this deployment and the families of our Guard.

We have been meeting with our ONG, the dates have been set and city location, not building; for the family yellow ribbons and the 30 and 60 day yellow ribbons for our returning soldiers; this is the list:

Pre-Deployment Event

March 28th 2020 Saturday Bend

DURING DEPLOYMENT EVENTS (5 total) for families

May 2nd	Saturday	Medford
May 16th	Saturday	Salem
June 13th	Saturday	Portland
June 14th	Sunday	Salem
July 11th	Saturday	Springfield

POST 1 DEPLOYMENT EVENTS (5 total) for Returning Soldiers

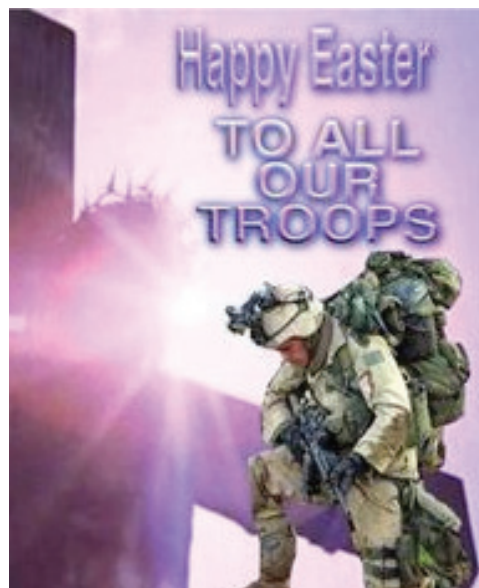
November 14th	Saturday	Medford
December 12th	Saturday	Portland
January 9th 2021	Saturday	Salem
February 20th	Saturday	Springfield
March 13th	Saturday	Portland

POST 2 DEPLOYMENT EVENTS (5 total)

April 10th	Saturday	Medford
May 16th	Sunday	Portland
June 12th	Saturday	Salem
July 10th	Saturday	Springfield
August 14th	Saturday	Portland

Our Posts need to contact their National Guard focal at their Armories in their areas to see how we can support our troops, families and these yellow ribbons, this is important.

Reminder: The 2020 Oregon Women Veterans Conference is held every 2 years and is being held on May 30-31, 2020 at the Riverside Convention Center in Bend, which we sponsor, and support and we will be there. Registration is now open at www.wvc.oregondva.com. This is an excellent event, well attended. Please get the word out to all Women Veterans.



Team Oregon's visit to Washington DC American Legion Conference

On March 10, 2020, Team Oregon visited



PDC, JIM WILLIS
**MEMBER, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE
COMMISSION**
**VICE-CHAIR, NATIONAL
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

the five US Representatives and

two US Senators to brief them on the American Legion legislative priorities.

Our team consisted of PNC Charlie Schmidt, NVC Rob Liebenow, Alt NEC Jim Willis, Department Commander Steve Adams, PDC Kevin Owens, PDC Tom Harris, District Commander Cory Brockman, District Vice Commander Greg Marvin, and SAL NEC Willie Williams.

The American Legion legislative priorities covered by selected team members at each of the meetings were:

- Toxic exposures and burn pits
- Health care for women veterans
- Support VA's suicide-prevention efforts
- Reaffirm commitment to our allies
- Fully fund a superior nation defense
- Pay the Coast Guard
- Implement, oversee recent laws, I.e., VA Appeals Modernization Act and the VA Mission Act
- Protect the GI Bill
- Help and veteran homelessness
- Support for Gold Star families
- Protecting the American Flag
-

Respectfully submitted



Continued from page 9

As we work thru these times, we can do business such as processing membership, calling members and doing much needed **BUDDY CHECKS**. Most of our members are over 65 and are in the risk group so we need to keep in touch with them. We also need to be aware of the emotional and mental stress this situation is putting on some of our members and keep in contact with them by phone or email.

We all need to follow all directives from Federal, State, and local agencies to keep ourselves, our members, our families and our communities safe.



In Memoriam



Leah passed away on March 20th and a private service was held March 24th. A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date.



Celebration of Life

We are very sad to report the passing of Leah Mardelle Hufford. Leah is the mother of PDP Jan Hufford-Wilson.

Cards or notes can be sent to:

Jan Hufford-Wilson
1519 Del Rio Avenue SE
Albany, OR 97322

“Widow’s Tax” Terminated

When the President signed the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020 on December 20th, the long-standing “Widow’s tax” was terminated.

Public Law 116-92 allows surviving spouses of military troops who died during active-duty service or retirees who died from a service-connected cause to keep all compensation from the government.

Before this new law, surviving spouses who received a Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) paid a dollar-for-dollar offset from their Military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP).

Thanks to the great work of the American Legion staff in Washington DC and other NSO’s, this great victory has been won for these deserving military spouses.

If you know someone who may qualify for these benefits, help them contact our Service Office at (503) 412-4706 or email our Service Officer Ed Van Dyke at Edward.Vandyke@va.gov or our Assistant Service Officer Judy Marsh at Jody.Marsh@va.gov.

You have an opportunity to change the quality of these spouses’ lives for the rest of their lives.



PDC, JIM WILLIS
VA & R COMMISSION

Legionnaire HospitalHELP Insurance Plan



Endorsed By
Your American Legion
Department

LEARN MORE

Money to help pay YOUR
portion of hospital bills or
you can use your cash
benefits however you see fit!

Are you moving?

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please Update My Address in mylegion.org

Name: _____

New Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Effective Date: _____

PhoneNumber: _____

Email Address: _____

Please Email to: Office@orlegion.org

Or Mail to: The Department of Oregon

Attn: Adjutant

P.O. Box 1730

Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730



How to organize a Buddy Check

The American Legion
FEB 11, 2020
FacebookTwitterMore

American Legion Resolution No. 18 calls for Buddy Checks to be conducted twice a year – Legion birthday (March 15-17) and Veterans Day (Nov. 11) – but posts are encouraged to conduct them at any time throughout the year. Buddy Checks serve as a way to reach out to members and former members who may need financial assistance, transportation or service officer help.

Get started on organizing a Buddy Check by following these seven steps:

1. Gather up a team if possible, to call or personally visit members and former members of The American Legion. If each member in a team of 10 calls just 10 Legionnaires or former Legionnaires, 100 veterans can be reached in one sitting.
2. Visit MyLegion.org for a list of members and former members.
3. Divide up the call list among your team members.
4. Start calling – either from a quiet place inside the post or from your home – to see how the members and former members are doing, ask if they need anything and invite them to an upcoming event or activity such as The American Legion's birthday or Veterans Day.
5. Thank the member or former member in the beginning and at the end of your call.
6. Have your post's payment procedure at your fingertips if the member or former member wishes to renew, the address to send a check or offer to stop by in person to pick it up (another opportunity to connect).
7. Leave contact information if no one answers the phone. The veteran may return your call later one with need for assistance.

Share your Buddy Check results on legiontown.org.
legion.org/membership/buddycheck

Vote

It's that time of year that we are concerned on who to vote for and being an American Legion individual we must be careful to remain nonpartisan. We need to encourage people to get out and vote and at the same time being the American Legion there are certain rules we must abide by to insure that we do not lose our non-profit status per the IRS.

We encourage people to get out and vote, and we can explain what is so important in the election process, but we must remain nonpartisan in the process. We do not show that we favor any particular party or candidate above another. We can help the election process by calling people to remind them that their vote is needed. If they cannot get out by themselves we are encouraged to help them get to the voting place or help with their mail as long as we do not interfere with their voting privileges. It is none of our business. We are here to help them accomplish the deed of voting and that is it.


You should not wear anything that would look like you are campaigning for a certain individual if you are volunteering to help with an American Legion-sponsored voting drive and registration while you are working for your post. There should not be any campaign materials in your area at that time.

Not to say you can't be partisan, you have your rights as an individual. However, if you are attending a candidate's rally, you must not wear any type of American Legion apparel or cap. If you do so this will alert the IRS and possibly endanger your post's non profit status. We do not want that.

The American Legion must be nonpartisan as mandated by the IRS in order to maintain a tax-deductible status.

Please support your Posts in providing rides for individuals getting to the polling places, or help with getting their votes in the mail.

Do not make the mistake and support a certain candidate over another, that is not our job. We are here to help and support our election process, and make sure everyone has the opportunity and access to vote.



Answer:

C. Community Centers

Need to Know Dates

Boys State – June 14-20, 2020

Girls State – June 14-20, 2020

State Convention
June 24-28, 2020



LARRY EUGENE WITTMAYER
FOR 1ST VICE COMMANDER

My membership in the American Legion goes back 13 years and is based on my eligibility having served on active duty with the U.S. Navy for 21 years., That service spans the Cold War and Vietnam times of conflict.

In those thirteen years with the American Legion I have held the following positions:

- Co-Founder of Post 65
- Commander Post 65
- Member of Department Scouting Committee
- Adjutant Post 65
- Chair Department Scouting Committee
- Chair Department Membership Commission
- Department Second Vice Commander
- Member, National Veterans Employment & Education Council

During my tenure as Department Second Vice Commander, I have found that working with volunteers requires a Servant Leadership style of leadership.

My interest in Department organization has led me to believe that we will do well in the future when our team is stronger. I will strive to strengthen that team through communication and role understanding.

I, therefore, ask for your support and vote at Convention for the high office of First Vice Commander for 2020-2021.

I hereby announce my candidacy for First Vice Commander of the Department of Oregon for the upcoming term of 2020-2021.

I announce my candidacy for the high office of Department 2nd Vice Commander within the Department of Oregon for 2020-2021. My eligibility for membership within The American Legion is based upon honorable active duty service within the U.S. Army during the Lebanon/Grenada era. I have nearly seven years, total, of honorable active duty service having also served in the U.S. Air Force, as well as, three additional years in the Air National Guard.

As a seven-year, and Paid-Up-For-Life, member within The American Legion I have held numerous positions of leadership at the post- and district-level. This includes post adjutant, 2nd vice commander and 1st vice commander at Aloha #104; and, as district adjutant, vice commander and, currently, commander, of District 1. I have also held department-level leadership positions in chairing the Media and Communications Commission and the Americanism Commission, along with serving as a member on numerous committees. I currently hold a national appointment on the National Security Council and previously held a national appointment on the Americanism Council.

Concerning American Legion education, I have completed the American Legion Extension Institute course; American Legion Education Institute Basic Training; and, I am a graduate of the National American Legion College.

Veteran-advocacy endeavors along with leadership development within our military service academies are key areas of my interests and philanthropy. 'Service before self' is a prominent value I hold, and I have held positions within The American Legion for six of the seven years I have been a member, working to make a positive difference in the lives of our veterans. We are stronger when working together and I ask for your support, and vote, in electing me to the position of Department 2nd Vice Commander in 2020-2021.



CORY BROCKMANN
FOR 2ND VICE COMMANDER



S. FLYNN PHILLIPS
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

District Commanders and Post Commanders, please jump on this and be ahead of the curve. Elections and reporting need to be in by NLT May 15.

Legionnaires, We are all hunkered down, but you still can get your elections done, for Districts and Posts, this is very important.

2nd Vice Commander Larry Wittmeyer has already used Survey Monkey, use the free one, he says you get one free. The links are below.

Also, use the www.FreeConferencall.com, see below. National is using this one.

Also, if you are going to **RUN** for **HIGH OFFICE**, send me your Bio and picture **NOW**.



"Where there is a will, there is an A." so let's **ACE** this.

Thank you





George A. White Part 3

SUBMITTED BY:
PDC, GENE HELICKSON

GEORGE A. White, of Oregon will tell in this and succeeding articles the history of the Legion's formation, was one of the group which launched the movement and called the Paris caucus. His associates in this task say the Paris caucus would have been considerable of a dud but for his efforts. Once when unjustified suspicion threatened the budding movement, he went AWOL in order to visit a number of divisions which were not going to join it because they were convinced it was formed to work the will of an Army or political clique – or both. All of these outfits came in when they learned from Mr. White the real purpose of the movement. Mr. White was elected first secretary of the Legion in France by the Executive Committee of One Hundred at the Paris caucus. Thereafter the infant Legion abroad literally grew up in his quarters. Mr. White is now a member of Portland Post No. 1, Department of Oregon.

CRADLE DAYS IN THE LEGION III

BE it said to the credit of the Paris caucus that not even the counter-attractions of that great and reputedly wicked city interfered appreciably with the hard, earnest work of founding The American Legion. True, some three hundred of the delegates were AWOL after the first session, and another hundred or two never reported at all. Plainly it was the bright lights of the metropolis rather than the higher purposes of the caucus that attracted them to Paris. But the majority of the delegates went, not on pleasure bent, but with a realization of the task ahead and a firm purpose to see it through.

Eleven of the fifteen men selected to choose a name for the new organization functioned. "Legion of the Great War" was their choice. As an alternative possibility the committee chose "Veterans of the Great War." The name "American Legion" did not get a single first choice vote in the committee. It did receive one second choice and three third choice votes.

Other names suggested by delegates on the floor of the convention included "Comrades of the Great War," "Liberty League," "American Comrades," "Society of the Great War" and "Army of the Great War."

It was a delegate from the Thirty-sixth (Lone Star) Division, Maurice K. Gordon, who moved adoption by the convention of the name "American

Legion," and that name was finally adopted, although without enthusiasm at the time and only after it had been explained by the chair that the action was temporary and could be changed later. Naming the child caused more indecision than any other action of the caucus, since nearly everyone had a name for it.

The high purposes which have moved The American Legion from its inception were embodied in the first draft of its Constitution, adopted by the Paris caucus. Since then the immortal preamble which now proclaims the Legion's purpose has been developed to take its place as one of the greatest documents in American history. The similarity of purpose and spirit of those who were the pioneers at Paris and those who were the founders at Minneapolis may be seen by comparison of the present Legion preamble with the one adopted unanimously at Paris which read:

"We, the members of the military and naval services of the United States of America in the Great War, desiring to perpetuate the principles of justice, freedom and democracy for which we have fought, to inculcate the duty and obligation of the citizen to the State to preserve the history and incident of our participation in the war; and to cement the ties of comradeship formed in service, do propose to found and establish an association for the furth-

erance of the foregoing purposes."

Of the fifteen members of this committee on the Constitution, thirteen stayed on the job until it was done, losing but two members in the great battle of Paris. Several of those who wrote the initial Constitution have continued their active interest in the Legion to this day in their respective communities.

*1 The American Legion Weekly,
December 10, 1920*

The two other committees – Permanent Organization and Place of Convention worked with difficult problems. The Committee on Convention of which Wagoner Dale Shaw of Iowa was chairman, recommended fixing of November 11, 1919, as the date of the national charter convention, "to be held at such place as the Executive Committee of this organization, acting with the Executive Committee of this organization in the United States may decide."

THE Executive Committee of One Hundred in France named Chicago as the convention city but the St. Louis caucus, having no knowledge of this action at the time, objected to Chicago because of the war record, or lack of war record, of its mayor and gave the convention to Minneapolis.

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George A. White

Part 3 Continued

SUBMITTED BY:
PDC, GENE HELICKSON

Continued from page 14

Not knowing when the A. E. F. would finally get home, if ever, provision was made to have the Army abroad represented at the charter convention in America. The A. E. F. was carefully districted and the basis of representation fixed after much study and argument. This work was needless however, since the Army was home and in civvies in plenty of time for the Legion's official birthday.

Provision for keeping the Legion ship afloat and active was made by the creation of an executive committee. The original committee on organization was unable to agree, dividing into a majority and minority committee and presenting alternative plans, both of which were rejected by the caucus. A second committee was then named, with Milton J. Foreman, of Illinois, as chairman. It allotted two executive committeemen to each combat division and each S. O. S. section in France, the committeemen to be elected by those whom they represented and to serve until the national convention in America.

This plan was accepted unanimously. The committeemen were elected and they in turn chose a chairman and secretary, offices corresponding to what are now National Commander and National Adjutant. It was provided that half the committeemen must be enlisted men.

While it was decided by the caucus that no active enrollment of Legion members should be undertaken in the A. E. F., all soldiers, sailors and marines being considered members without application on their part, the requirement for membership was fixed and fixed high. A man or woman must have actually been enlisted or

commissioned in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps during hostilities in order to receive membership. The same hard and fast rule still prevails.

Having accomplished these things, the Paris caucus adjourned. In the final session, March 17, the ghost of false suspicion had been laid. Nothing that looked like an ulterior motive had shown itself. The principal ambition of the temporary committee plainly was to turn the job over and get from under. There were plenty of strong shoulders to carry the load further.

The rest of the big job in France was left to the Executive Committee which organized for business that evening

END PART III



William "Bull Dog" Sump

Michael Wilson
Commander,
Milwaukie Post 180

Hey,

This is the campaign for Cpl. Diffie Veterans Fund (Milwaukie Post No. 180, The American Legion DBA Corporal Diffie Veterans Fund):

https://charity.gofundme.com/en/campaign/corporal-diffie-veterans-fund/milwaukiepost-no180theamericanlegiondbacorporaldiffieveteransfund?utm_campaign=ocdonate&utm_medium=email&utm_source=crowdrise



BILL OXFORD are all learning here, and I ask that you be patient, flexible and strong as we get through this. And we will get through this because our American Legion Family has proven our toughness throughout our first 101 years.

We must be smart about how we approach this. I have suspended all official travel for all American Legion national officers and staff unless it is ***absolutely imperative***. This policy pertains to me as well and will last at least through the end of March. Travel beyond that date will be reassessed in a timely fashion. While I do not have the authority to mandate that departments take action, I would like to share with you how your national headquarters will be operating for the temporary future. Keep in mind, these policies are also recommended by medical professionals at the Center for Disease Control and other experts throughout the health care and emergency response communities.

We are providing a liberal leave policy for employees who are ill or who have family members who are ill. We are also providing liberal leave or telework options for those experiencing daycare issues because of school cancellations. The workplace at national headquarters will be even cleaner than its usual high standards and there will be plenty of hand-sanitizers available for workers and visitors to use. We have also temporarily halted public tours of the headquarters.

We have many national youth pro-

Continued on Page 16



In The Auxiliary News

HONORING ALA Unit #133's Thelma Edwards

How many units have members over the age of 80 or even 90, 50 years of continuous membership or more, can no longer come to meetings, drive a car, live in their own house or feel wanted and needed? Most units have these members who are still viable people, who mean something to all of us. Just because they can no longer do these things, doesn't mean they haven't helped in the past. The ALA and programs mean so much to them and they have so many memories of how things were. Most are left out of the loop because they don't have email and don't get all the information that goes out. Please remember them and print off newsletters, flyers and other information, so they can feel like they ARE a part of the ALA. We are all getting older and our day will come, so get out there and pass the torch to the next generation!

One such person we honor this week is Thelma Edwards of Unit #133 Timber City – Sweet Home. Thelma is a 54- year member who is 82 years young (very fun to talk to) and she still lives at home. She currently is Unit Chaplain and Girls State Chairman with the unit meeting at her house. She has volunteered most of her life and was involved in Girl Scouts for around 50 years, as a Brownie, Senior Scout, Troop Leader, Cookie Chairman and Council Board member. Her love of helping young girls led her to working on the Girls State Staff for 17 years and being director for 2 years. She had been Unit President for several years and was District 3 President 1979-1980. Thelma was a member of the 8 & 40 for 40 years (invitations only). Her husband Sterling joined the Army the day after he graduated High School, in 1953. Shortly after, the Korean Truce was called so they sent him to Austria & Italy for service. While he was there his unit was called on to act as police during the 1954 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria. His brothers served in the Army, Air Force and Navy. Thelma's brother Ben was in the Air Force and her younger brother was in the National Guard. Her husband passed away 5 years ago but she is left with her daughter Jill, son Jim, and 3 wonderful grandchildren. Thelma has a great view on life and feels blessed with her family and her ALA family she has met over the years. Thank you, Linda & Judy Paddock for getting back to me with Thelma's updated phone number. This small unit has Tommylou Dalton, Mardelle Hufford (92), Jan Hufford-Wilson (joined when born) and Edna Lytner (104 in August) with 50 or more years.

In Thelma's own words, "at 82 I can look back at many, many years of serving our American Legion Auxiliary but my most Wonderful time has been serving on the staff at Girls State." This has clearly been Thelma's passion over the years along with everything else she has done. We honor you and Thank You Thelma!

Respectfully,

Kathi Karnowski
Department of Oregon Membership



Continued from Page 15

grams, meetings and other events scheduled for the weeks and months ahead. Some will likely be cancelled or postponed. These decisions will not be easy to make but will be thought out with safety being the number one priority. Cancellations and postponements of national American Legion events will be announced promptly on our national website, www.legion.org, and by email to all departments once such decisions are made. I will keep you advised of any new measures at the national level as they occur.

I am asking every department to respect their local civil authorities as well. Different states have different measures in effect. Like veterans, they are risking their health and wellbeing in order to keep us safe. This is a new kind of crisis for them as well.

The Buddy Check program is perhaps more important now than ever before. Rely on telephone, email or social media to communicate since person-to-person contact is not the safest option. Please be particularly attentive to seniors, a population that is especially vulnerable to the harmful effects of this virus.

I do realize that some of the measures we have taken will inconvenience many of you. Nobody wants this to last any longer than necessary. And once it is determined that the conditions are safe, operations will return to normal. I thank you in advance for your patience, resilience and continued service to our great organization and country.

Sincerely

USS Hershel "Woody" Williams



*Defense
Media
Activity -
Marines*

*Story by
Lance Cpl.
Fernando
Moreno*

Date: 03.07.2020

Posted: 03.08.2020 21:18

News-ID: 364765

NORFOLK, Va. - The Expeditionary Sea Base (ESB) Hershel "Woody" Williams was commissioned as a warship on March 7, 2020. The ship transfers from military Sealift Command to the Navy.

In attendance to the event were figures such as the commandant of the Marine Corps, West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; James Geurts, Assistant Secretary of the Navy; and five Medal of Honor recipients. If you are going to start with the titles before the name, it should continue throughout.

The ship was previously known as the United States Naval Ship (USNS) Hershel "Woody" Williams. Now, that it has been commissioned as a Navy warship, the ship is the United States Ship (USS) Hershel "Woody" Williams.

The ship is named after retired Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer Four Hershel Woodrow Williams. At 95 years old, Williams is the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient recognized for his heroic deeds at the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II.

Williams delivered his namesake ad-

dress where he acknowledged the impact such an event has and will continue to have for the future.

"I'm grateful to all those who have the expertise to put something like this together," said Hershel Woodrow Williams, retired CWO4. "And may all those who serve aboard this ship that will bear my name be safe and be proud. And may she have God's blessings for a long-life a of service to the greatest country on earth."

The commissioning of the ship as a United States Ship will make it a more versatile and flexible warfighting machine, capable of a variety of sea missions. The ship operates with a mixed crew of Navy Seamen, Mariners, and civilians and is uniquely designed, being only the second ship of its kind, to have an open operations deck below and a flight deck above.

Its capabilities as a warfighting asset are not to be outdone, however, by its overall cost effectiveness as stated by General David H. Berger.

"This ship is a step in the right direction for what we can afford as a nation. It's a draft office civilian design, but modified by naval architects to make a fighting ship out of it," said General David H. Berger, 38th Commandant of the Marine Corps."

The Williams was built at a cost of about \$500 million in 2017, and is the second of three Expeditionary Sea Base ships built for the Navy by a private sector company.



This is how the Navy and the Marine Corps can work with industry to produce what we need to protect our country."



After remarks and addresses from distinguished ship commissioning committee members, Williams personally presented the long glass to the ships officer of the deck.

The long glass is traditionally the symbol representing the officer of the decks authority on the ship. Williams presented the looking glass to the newly commissioned ships officer of the deck, officially setting the first watch.





Today, March 25 is
National Medal of Honor Day

DICK TOBIASON
CHAIRMAN, BEND HEROES
FOUNDATION
MEMBER: AMERICAN LEGION,
VFW, MOAA, MOPH,
VVA

Thanks to
A m e r i c a n
Legion, VFW,
MOPH and
MOAA lead-
ership at the
state level,
we are doing

well with creating 11 more state Medal of Honor Highways across the USA east of Oregon. Those highways honor all Medal of Honor recipients connected with the 12 states – about 2,400.

I thought a “**National Medal of Honor Highway**” on US Hwy 20 would be a great way to honor all of our nation’s current (3,508) and future Medal of Honor recipients. The proposed highway would parallel 2 Presidential Highways across the USA: Lincoln and Eisenhower. Therefore I sent the attached letter to Senator Wyden, Senator Merkley and Representative Greg Walden today requesting their thoughts on designating US Highway 20 across America as “National Medal of Honor Highway”.

I also sent the letter to all VSOs leading the state Medal of Honor Highways.

Hope all is well.

Respectfully

Dick Tobiason
Chairman, Bend Heroes Foundation
Coordinator, Medal of Honor
Highway across America

Bend Heroes Foundation
1900 NE 3rd St., Ste 106 #205
Bend, OR 97701

March 25, 2020

Senator Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg. Wash-
ington, DC 20510

Senator Jeff Merkley
313 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Wyden, Senator Merkley
and Representative Walden,

Today is **National Medal of Honor Day** created by Public Law 101-564 and signed into law by President George H. W. Bush on November 15, 1990. The purpose of National Medal of Honor Day is to “*focus the efforts of national, State, and local organizations striving to foster public appreciation and recognition of Medal of Honor recipients*”.

Relating to National Medal of Honor Day, Bend Heroes Foundation initiated legislation with the Oregon Legislature four years ago to designate all 451 miles of scenic U.S. Hwy 20 in Oregon between its borders with the Pacific Ocean and Idaho as the **Oregon Medal of Honor Highway**. That highway is the first such highway in our nation honoring all of a state’s Medal of Honor recipients with a border to border highway.

We raised funds to pay Oregon Depart-

ment of Transportation (ODOT) to fabricate and install 12 **Oregon Medal of Honor Highway** signs completing the project in 2018. The highway honors Oregon’s 30 Medal of Honor recipients and helps educate travelers about wartime veterans who were awarded our nation’s highest military award for “*acting with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged with an enemy of the United States*”.

You have had the privilege of knowing the late Robert D. “Bob” Maxwell, a WWII recipient of the Medal of Honor medal and longtime resident of Bend, Redmond and Eugene. Mr. Maxwell participated in the Oregon legislative process and dedication of Oregon Medal of Honor Highway signs. He was delighted with the Oregon initiative and the Foundation’s vision of a Medal of Honor Highway across the United States of America.

At 3,365 miles in length, the east-west U.S. Hwy 20 is the longest highway in our nation and spans our nation from the Pacific Ocean (Newport, OR) to the Atlantic Ocean (Boston, MA) crossing 12 contiguous states. The Oregon legislation envisioned a Medal of Honor Highway across the United States on U.S. Highway 20.

The Foundation is coordinating designations of 11 more state Medal of Honor Highways east of Oregon. Legislatures and Governors in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska have already designated their segments of U.S. Hwy 20 as state Medal of Honor Highways. Including Oregon, we are just over halfway across our nation. Governors in Indiana

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Continued from page 18

and Iowa will soon designate their highways raising the distance to almost 70%. The remaining 5 states are not far behind.

Eventually we will have at least 100 state Medal of Honor Highway signs (50 signs facing in each direction) spanning our nation on U.S. Hwy 20 and mostly paid for by patriots.

A National Medal of Honor Highway would honor all of America's 3,508 Medal of Honor recipients – 71 of whom are living and all future recipients.

My question: would the United States Congress be willing to designate the entire U.S. Highway 20 as the “**National Medal of Honor Highway**” just as it did in 1913 and 1973 designating 2 east-west highways spanning our nation from sea to shining sea as **Lincoln Highway** (first transcontinental highway) and **Eisenhower Highway**. U.S. Hwy 20 parallels both Presidential highways and all three are about the same length between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

The **Lincoln Highway** honors President Abraham Lincoln who signed legislation in 1861 and 1862 creating the Congressional Medal of Honor award. So that highway has a special meaning to Medal of Honor recipients, patriots and historians.

The **Eisenhower Highway** was created in 1973 as a result of then Lt Col. Dwight D. Eisenhower's caravan of military vehicles 2 month arduous drive across the Lincoln Highway just after WWI and General Eisenhower's recognition of the value of the German autobahn highway system during WWII. Those experiences eventually led to creating the Interstate Highway System in 1956.

I would deeply appreciate your guidan-

Respectfully

Dick Tobiason
Chairman, Bend Heroes Foundation
Coordinator, Medal of Honor
Highway across America



DON WEBER
FOR DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

ce on how to proceed with designating/naming U.S. Highway 20 as the “**National Medal of Honor Highway**” and with appropriate federal signage.

Thank you for your many kindnesses to Oregon's veteran over many years.



Installation of F&J Raven Post #134
Officers



Good Day, my name is Don Weber and I am running for the high office of Department Commander. I derived my eligibility in The American Legion by serving over 41 years in the Oregon National Guard including two years deployed to Afghanistan.

I have been a member of The American Legion for 15 years, and served in most of the positions at Aloha Post 104, including two years as Commander. I served positions at District 1, including two years as District

Commander. At Department I served in Public Affairs, Legionnaire, and National Guard and Reserve committees, ROTC, and Media and Communication Commission. I also served as the ad-hoc committee chair of the Centennial Committee. My most memorable and learning opportunity came from serving as the Aide to the National Commander.

As Commander I would like to focus on Reconnecting Veterans. By connecting with Veterans, we fulfill all the goals of The American Legion. Conducting Buddy Checks reconnects us with our members, reminds them of how important they are, and in the long run supports membership. After all, membership is the backbone of our organization. That is what gives us the influence when we “Storm the Hill” in Washington DC, and share with our Legislators the priorities of The American Legion. The Purpose of TAL is the Four Pillars. When we reconnect, Veterans will see what TAL does, and want to be a part of this great organization. When they enjoy the rewards of membership, they will become more involved in our leadership positions. I will commit my efforts to increasing the communication between all administrative levels at Dept., District, and Post levels.

I look forward to another great year in TAL. I ask for your endorsement as the Department Commander.

“Reconnecting Veterans”



THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ (Date of Birth) _____

Mailing Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____

(Phone) _____ (Email) _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female (Gender) _____ (Post #) _____ (Dues) _____

☐ I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Please check appropriate eligibility era and branch of service below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korea | <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WWII | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts | |

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____ Name of Recruiter _____

Mail completed application to The American Legion National Headquarters, Attn: Internal Affairs. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current department/state address, go to www.legion.org.

ALA 08/2019

Date

Received From

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date _____

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____

Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ Recruited by _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____

Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____ (Phone) _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____ Department of _____

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____

Has Applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____ Where? _____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and

Email Address _____ Transmit \$ _____ for 20 _____ annual membership dues

Signed By Applicant (or Parent) _____ Eligibility certified by _____

Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion department/state headquarters. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current detachment address, go to The American Legion department/state headquarters, or visit www.legion.org.

ALA 12/2013

Date

Received From

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Squadron No.

Department of



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

APPLICANT INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____ Unit # and Location (if known) _____

Date of Birth (Required) ☐ Birth - 17 ☐ 18 and over

Have you been a member previously? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, fill in below, if known.)

Previous Unit City/State: _____ ALA ID#: _____

Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Date _____

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. Membership pending approval of application.

Eligible Through—Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name) _____

If Living: American Legion Member ID # _____ Post # _____ City _____ State _____

☐ Deceased (If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.)

Veteran Served:

☐ WWI (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)

☐ Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror | <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada | <input type="checkbox"/> WWII |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama | <input type="checkbox"/> Korea | |

Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Female Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Mother |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grandmother | <input type="checkbox"/> Sister | <input type="checkbox"/> Self |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daughter | <input type="checkbox"/> Granddaughter | |

To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification _____

Date

ALA 09/2019

Date

Received From

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #